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IN THE CLAIMS

1-19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented): A financial document processing system comprising:
a financial document processing transport including (i) means defining a document transport path along which financial documents can be transported, and (ii) a first display for allowing an operator to view an operator message which relates to an exception condition which has occurred along the document transport path;

a transport controller including (i) means for controlling operation of the transport, and (ii) means for generating an operator message when an exception condition occurs along the document transport path;

a transmitter interface including (i) means for receiving operator messages from the transport controller, and (ii) means for wirelessly transmitting operator messages;
and

a portable control unit which is separate from the transport and which can be carried by an operator between a first location in which the operator is able to view the first display on the transport and a second location in which the operator is unable to view the first display on the transport, the portable control unit including (i) means for wirelessly receiving operator messages from the transmitter interface, (ii) a second display for allowing the operator to view an operator message which relates to an exception condition which has occurred along the document transport path without having to move from the second location to the first location to view the operator message on the first display, (iii) means for receiving command inputs from the operator, (iv) means for transmitting command messages which are based upon the command inputs to the transport to control operation of the transport, (v) means for receiving a broadcasted message advising that the transport is available, (vi) means for enabling the operator to select the transport, and (vii) means for exchanging authenticating information with the transport to establish a communication session with the transport.

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21. (previously presented): A financial document processing system according to claim 20, wherein the transport further includes (iii) means for creating a session identifier upon establishing a communication session with the portable control unit.

22. (previously presented): A financial document processing system according to claim 21, wherein the session identifier is included in all messages exchanged between the transport and the portable control unit.

23. (previously presented): A financial document processing system according to claim 22, wherein operator messages issued by the transport controller are directed both to the first display of the transport and the second display of the portable control unit.

24. (previously presented): A financial document processing system according to claim 23, wherein the transmitter interface uses omnidirectional RF communication to transmit operator messages.

25. (previously presented): A method of operating a financial document processing transport, the method comprising:

- establishing a communication session with a portable operator control unit which can be carried by an operator between one location of the transport and another location of the transport during operation of the transport;
- wirelessly transmitting operator messages to the portable control unit when an exception condition associated with the transport occurs; and
- wirelessly receiving commands from the portable control unit when an operator responds to operator messages which have been wirelessly transmitted to the portable control unit.

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27. (previously presented): A method of operating a financial document processing transport to handle an exception condition which occurs during operation of the transport, the method comprising:

generating an operator message which is indicative of the exception condition;

displaying the operator message on a first display which is on the transport to allow an operator view the operator message when the operator is in a first location which is in the vicinity of the first display on the transport;

wirelessly transmitting the operator message to a second display which is on a portable control unit which has been carried by the operator from the first location to a second location in which the operator is unable to view the operator message on the first display on the transport, and thereby to allow the operator to view the operator message on the second display on the portable control unit without having to move back to the first location to view the operator message on the first display on the transport; and

receiving a command message from the portable control unit when the operator issues commands based upon the operator viewing the operator message displayed on the second display on the portable control unit.

28. (previously presented): A financial document processing system comprising:
a plurality of financial document processing transports in the vicinity of one another, each transport including means for generating an availability message which includes a unique identifier when the transport is not engaged in a communication session;

first transmitter means including (i) means for processing messages including availability messages generated by each transport, and (ii) wirelessly broadcasting the messages;

a plurality of portable handheld operator control units in the vicinity of one another and within radio frequency of the first transmitter means, each control unit including (i) means for receiving messages which have been wirelessly broadcasted from the first transmitter means, (ii) means for generating a display listing available transports based upon

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messages which have been generated by transports, (iii) means for enabling an operator to select from the listing of available transports a desired transport with which to request a communication session, and (iv) means for wirelessly transmitting a selection message which is indicative of the transport which has been selected by the operator and with which the operator desires to request a communication session; and

second transmitter means including (i) means for receiving messages including selection messages from each portable control unit, and (ii) means for directing messages including selection messages to the appropriate transport.

29. (previously presented): A financial document processing system according to claim 28, wherein the first and second transmitter means comprise a transmitter interface and a transmitter server connected to the transmitter interface to control operation of the transmitter interface in response to commands from transports.

30. (previously presented): A financial document processing system according to claim 28, wherein each transport includes means for providing an availability message when the transport is already engaged in a communication session with one portable control unit and the transport is available to engage in an additional session with a different portable control unit.